

The FCC has said: *“We believe that an individual's ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of that individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.”* That statement is true, but only for a portion of the Amateur Radio mission.

We have left out of consideration, in that statement, Amateur Radio's commitment to Public Service. Records show, many times, that the only way to get the message through was via Morse code. It is the simplest form of radio communication and in that fact lies its most important characteristic, it often has been, and will continue to be, the most reliable. Walter Cronkite has said that Amateur Radio is perhaps the only fail-safe communications capability, and best backup communications system in the world. Part of the reason for that has been Morse code. Removal of all Morse code requirements degrades that fail-safe concept.

To make sure we don't lose that capability, retain a Morse code requirement for at least one level of Amateur Radio Licensee.